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**Listing of Claims**

Please amend claims 14, 15, and 32 as follows:

14. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A non-fretted stringed instrument with non-traditional nut, comprising:

- (a) a fingerboard having a longitudinal axis, and
- (b) a nut positioned non-perpendicular to said axis, ~~at an angle predetermined by the preference of a person playing said instrument,~~

whereby said nut alters the traditional fingerboard topology close to said nut in ~~accordance with the preference of said person playing said instrument.~~

15. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A non-fretted stringed instrument with non-traditional bridge, comprising:

- (a) a fingerboard having a longitudinal axis, and
- (b) a bridge positioned non-perpendicular to said axis, ~~at an angle predetermined by the preference of a person playing said instrument,~~

whereby said bridge alters the traditional fingerboard topology close to said bridge in ~~accordance with the preference of said person playing said instrument.~~

32. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A stringed instrument with non-traditional nut-bridge orientation, comprising:

- (a) a fingerboard having a longitudinal axis,

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(b) a nut positioned non-perpendicular to said axis, ~~at an angle predetermined by the preference of the person playing said instrument, and~~

(c) a bridge positioned parallel to said nut,

whereby the non-traditional orientation of said nut and said bridge alters the traditional fingerboard topology ~~in accordance with the preference of said person playing said instrument.~~